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Shua language

Shua /ˈʃuːə/, or *Shwakhwe*, is a Khoe language of Botswana. It is spoken in central Botswana (in Nata and its surroundings), and in parts of the Chobe District in the extreme north of Botswana. There are approximately 6,000 speakers (Cook 2004). The term *Shwakhwe* means people (*khwe*) from the salty area (*shwa*).

Shua	
Native to	Botswana
Native speakers	2,000 (2013)[1]

Language family	Khoe
	■ Kalahari (Tshu–Khwe)
	  ■ East
	    ■ **Shua**

Language codes	
ISO 639-3	shg
Glottolog	shua1254 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/shua1254)[2]

Contents

Syntax

Unlike most Khoisan languages, but like Nama, the most neutral word order is SOV, though word order is relatively free. As with most Khoisan languages, there are postpositions. There is a tense-aspect marker *ke* which often appears in second position in affirmative sentences in the present tense, giving X Aux S O V order (e.g. S Aux O V).

For example,

> Kʼarokwa ke ǁʼuizi ʼa gam
> boys Asp rock-pl obl throw
> "The boys are throwing rocks"
>
> ǁʼui-zi ʼa ke kʼarokwa gam
> rock-pl obl Asp boys throw
> "The boys are throwing rocks"

This marker appears first in certain subordinate clauses in a manner reminiscent of V2 languages such as German, where a clause-initial complementizer is in complementary distribution with a second position phenomenon (in German, it would be the finite verb which appears in second position).

Dialects

Shua is a dialect cluster.

- Deti (10 or fewer speakers)[3]
- Ganádi
- Shwa-khwe
- Nǀoo-khwe

- Kǀoree-khoe *or* ǀOree-khwe
- ǁʼAiye *or* ǀAaye
- ǀXaise *or* ǀTaise
- Tshidi-khwe *or* Tcaiti *or* Sili *or* Shete Tsere
- Danisi *or* Demisa *or* Madenasse *or* Madinnisane
- Cara
- ǁGoro *or* ǀXaio

The term Hietshware (Hietʃware, Hietʃo) is used for varieties of both Shua and its sister-language Tshwa.

Tsʼixa (200 speakers) is evidently a distinct language.

References

1. "Shua" (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/shg). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-05-22.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Shua" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/shua1254). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics: AAVE-Esperanto. Vol. 1* (https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=sl_dDVctycgC&pg=RA1-PA362). Oxford University Press. 2003. ISBN 9780195139778.

External links

- Shua basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database (http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\ckh\kho&limit=-1)